



## Cohen reaffirms full accounting promise

By Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

HANOI, Vietnam (NNS)  
— Even though 33 years have passed, America has not forgotten Cmdr. Richard Rich, an F-4B Phantom pilot.

Rich, of Stamford, Conn., is one of the more than 2,000 U.S. service members unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. For more than two decades, families of the missing have wondered if their loved ones died in combat or are possibly alive somehow, somewhere, still prisoners of the war that claimed nearly 60,000 American lives.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen traveled March 13 to Don Phu, a village about 30 kilometers southwest of Hanoi. About 20 members of Joint Task Force Full Accounting, assisted by about 260 Vietnamese workers, are searching there for the remains of what may be Rich's plane.

"We have an absolute, sacred obligation to do whatever we can to look for our missing in action," Cohen told reporters at the site. "We



**Defense Secretary William S. Cohen (center) talks with anthropologist Denny Danielson (left), of the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, at an excavation site outside Hanoi, Vietnam, where a Navy P-4B Phantom reportedly crashed in May 1967.**  
Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn.

will do that and not fail in that effort. We place the return of our missing in action as the very highest of our priorities. That is reflected in the effort being made out here today at this particular site."

Cohen said the purpose of

his Don Phu visit was to show the incredible and complex effort being made so that the families of the missing will have some measure of comfort that their government is doing everything possible to bring their loved ones home.

Eyewitness accounts indicate an F-4B Phantom II aircraft was shot down in May 1967 at the site here, known as Ha Tay. Villagers say one man ejected, was captured and

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## CNO says pay reforms are working

By CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS)  
— In testimony before two Senate committees, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral

Jay L. Johnson praised recent pay and compensation initiatives, while highlighting ongoing personnel and readiness concerns.

Johnson noted early signs indicate that the Navy is seeing higher retention following this year's pay and retirement reforms.

"In the critical area of

retention, we are beginning to see some positive signs which we believe are directly attributable to the fiscal year 2000 budget," said Johnson.

But these steps represent only a down payment toward efforts to keep the Navy strong through the 21st century, according to Johnson.

"The fiscal year 2000

budget was a great first step forward, but it was not a one-time fix," he said. "We must sustain the growth and the momentum."

While retention is showing some signs of improvement, Johnson noted that recruiting remains

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# NJROTC “a powerful tool,” CNO tells Congress

By CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) recently, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson praised the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program as a “powerful tool” in the effort to educate people about the Navy.

In response to questions from Rep. Norman Sisisky of Virginia, a Navy veteran of WWII, the CNO pointed out that the number of NJROTC units is growing steadily.

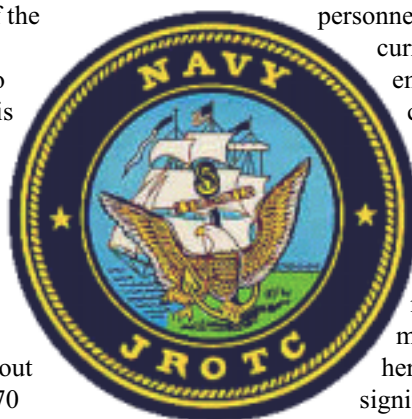
“[This year] we will stand up 55 more units. We have about 434 now and we’re on a pathway to take ourselves to 700 by fiscal year ’05,” the CNO said.

While not all NJROTC cadets go on to serve in the

Navy or other military services later, Johnson said that the units are valuable as a way to educate young people regardless of their future career paths.

“Even if the number [of those who go on to serve] is only 30 percent — you know, that’s a good number. But think about what we get out of the other 70 percent,” Johnson said.

“They have exposure to the military and to the challenge of the education mandate that we all share. It helps make them better citizens. [NJROTC] is a powerful tool to educate whether or not they end up in the service.”



NJROTC units at accredited secondary schools across the country are led by instructors who are retired sea services officers and enlisted personnel. The

curriculum emphasizes citizenship and leadership development, as well as our nation’s maritime heritage, the significance of sea power and naval topics such as the fundamentals of naval operations, seamanship, navigation and meteorology.

In addition to classroom instruction, cadets participate in community service, drill competition, field meets, flights, visits to naval activi-

ties, marksmanship training and other extra-curricular activities.

“NJROTC is wonderful for the students who participate in the program,” according to Hans Krucke, NJROTC Program Manager on the staff of Chief of Naval Education and Training in Pensacola, Fla. “It helps them prepare to meet life’s challenges. It helps them learn life skills that are essential for success in whatever they do after graduation.”

“It’s well worth the investment for a lot of different reasons,” Johnson echoed.

More information on this program can be found at <http://www.cnet.navy.mil>. Type NJROTC in the search window. Additional information can be obtained from Cheryl Ward at (850) 452-4947, extension 334.

## PCU *Jimmy Carter* (SSN 23) homeport announced

By the Navy Office of Information

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig announced March 7 that the submarine pre-commissioning unit (PCU) *Jimmy Carter* (SSN 23) will be assigned the homeport of Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Wash.

A Navy team recently completed a structured, impartial, objective and comprehensive review evaluating potential homeports. Only after a detailed evaluation of all these factors did the Secretary reach his decision to homeport the ship in Bangor. The proposed assignment is subject to the completion of all required construction and testing. The

submarine is scheduled to be delivered in 2004 and should arrive at Bangor in 2005.

PCU *Jimmy Carter*, the third Seawolf-class submarine, currently being built by the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, is undergoing a modification that will allow additional volume and services to accommodate advanced technology for naval special warfare, tactical surveillance and mine warfare operations.

The details of this modification and the advanced technologies, while classified, will support the Defense Science Board recommendations for improved payload capabilities

and flexible interface with the undersea environment. This will be accomplished without sacrificing current Seawolf-class multi-mission war fighting capabilities.

The modification will require alterations to the basic Seawolf design in the areas of ballast control, mission-management spaces and various services. A unique feature of this modification is the creation of a flexible ocean interface, referred to as the “wasp waist,” that will enable the Navy to deploy and recover various payloads without having to rely on the use of the torpedo tubes. The modification will make the submarine longer than the first

two Seawolf-class submarines.

The modifications to *Jimmy Carter* reflect the inherent flexibility of the submarine force to respond to emerging threats with new technologies and tactics. With *Jimmy Carter*, this generation’s submarine force will stride forward and meet emerging threats at sea, on land or of any nature. The Navy-Industry team is poised to build this remarkable and fully integrated submarine.

For more information about attack submarines (SSNs): <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/factfile/ships> and click on “ships-ssn.html.”

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transported to Hanoi. That man was radar intercept officer Lt. Cmdr. William Stark, who was released during Operation Homecoming in March 1973.

Stark said he lost contact with Rich after two surface-to-air missiles racked their aircraft, but he thought Rich was still alive because his head remained upright. Stark ejected — he's not sure how — and the next thing he knew he woke up on the ground surrounded by North Vietnamese forces. Stark never saw or heard from Rich again.

A 10-kilometer drive over a rough, crowded, single-lane dirt road was the final leg of Cohen's journey to the excavation site. Accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Douglas "Pete" Peterson; U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Harry B. Axson Jr., joint task force commander; and other U.S. officials, Cohen then walked about 300 meters from the road along a muddy dike among the rice paddies.

Recovery experts have dug a crater where an eyewitness said the crash occurred. Overseen by an anthropologist and other task force members, Vietnamese workers in a bucket brigade steadily passed buckets of mud to be carefully screened. After touring the site and seeing the bits and pieces of wreckage unearthed to date, Cohen expressed his gratitude to the local workers, the joint task force and to the Vietnamese government for their cooperation.

The United States is also helping the Vietnamese locate their missing in action, Cohen said. "We will work cooperatively in the future to resolve the remaining questions about those who are missing in action. We will do whatever we can to bring some peace of



**Defense Secretary William S. Cohen leads visitors on a tour of an excavation site near Hanoi, Vietnam, where a Navy fighter reportedly crashed in May 1967. Following Cohen on the walkway are Army Brig. Gen. Harry B. Axson Jr., Joint Task Force Full Accounting commander, and U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Douglas "Pete" Peterson. Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn.**

mind to the families who have lost their loved ones. We are making every conceivable effort to find their remains and bring them home."

When U.S. combat forces pulled out of Vietnam in 1973, 2,583 Americans were unaccounted for — 1,500 in Vietnam, more than 500 in Laos and nearly 80 in Cambodia. Another 425 were lost off the coast of Vietnam. America is still trying to determine their fate and, whenever possible, bring them home.

The U.S. government made a commitment to fully account for service members lost during the Vietnam War. Cohen has reaffirmed that promise.

"We're committed to all of our warriors, past and present. We're committed to their families, whose pain has endured for decades," he said. "America's fallen heroes did not face the horror of battle for us to turn away from their

sacrifice. They didn't fight for us to forget."

As of September 1999, U.S. and host-nation recovery teams have repatriated the remains of 529 service members. U.S. officials first launched formal search and recovery operations in Vietnam and Laos in 1988 and in Cambodia in 1991. By the end of fiscal 1999, U.S. officials had conducted 57 joint field activities in Vietnam, 59 in Laos and 18 in Cambodia.

Joint Task Force Full Accounting, set up in 1992, continues searching for the remaining 2,054 unaccounted for Americans. In 1999, task force officials investigated 351 cases, excavated 61 sites and repatriated 40 sets of remains believed to be American GIs. The remains of 25 Americans have been positively identified and returned to their families.

The task force, made up of about 160 investigators,

analysts, linguists and other specialists, plans to conduct 11 more field activities in 2000, five each in Vietnam and Laos and one in Cambodia. Task force headquarters at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, has detachments located in Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi, Vietnam; and Vientiane, Laos. The detachment in Thailand also supports operations in Cambodia.

No U.S. service members have returned alive since the release of 591 American prisoners of war in 1973. Despite reports of live sightings over the years, the government has been unable to obtain definitive evidence that Americans are being detained against their will in Southeast Asia. But they have not ruled out that possibility. Live-sighting reports continue to receive the highest priorities, according to military officials.

## CTT and EW ratings to merge

By CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — New intelligence gathering technology is bringing the EW and CT ratings together, allowing the Navy to do more at sea and ashore.

NAVADMIN 045/00 announces the merger of these two ratings, affecting approximately 1,800 EWs and 1,200 CTTs.

A review of the occupational standards of the CTT and EW ratings revealed many similarities of core skills between the two ratings.

The merger of the CTT and EW ratings will give future CTTs the opportunity to perform all aspects of electronic warfare and electronic intelligence on board fleet units and numerous shore stations.

"The new technology used for intelligence gathering will provide a broader range of opportunities for the EW and CTT ratings," said Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel. "The new rating will also have a more equitable sea/shore rotation due to increased sea duty billets for CTTs and provide quality in-rate shore duty for EWs."

The merger was approved by the Secretary of the Navy with a target implementation date of Oct. 1, 2003.

The post-merger CTT rating will keep the current CTT rating badge. EWs will have their official records changed and assume their new rating badges Oct. 1, 2003.

For more information, see the NAVADMIN 045/00 on the BUPERS web site <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>.



***It's Your Future.***

***Don't leave it blank.***

## USS Doyle seizes six tons of cocaine

By NAVSOUTH Public Affairs

EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN (NNS) — USS Doyle (FFG 39) and embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) recently intercepted a vessel named "Rebelde" off the coast of Ecuador carrying six tons of

cocaine while conducting routine counter drug operations. After detaining and searching the suspicious vessel, the LEDET discovered a vast amount of narcotics stowed aboard.

Rebelde was taken under tow and delivered to St.

Petersburg, Fla., in a joint Navy and Coast Guard operation when it was determined that the incident related to an ongoing investigation in the Middle District of Florida by the Interagency Drug Enforcement Task Force.

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difficult.

"Recruiting is still a challenge for us, though I'm pleased to report that we continue to make our monthly accession goals. As we turned the calendar over to March 1st, it's been 17 months in a row," he said. "We are not, however, making any real progress in filling up the delayed entry pool. This will not get any easier," he added.

Johnson also told the senators about the success of Inter-Deployment Training Cycle reductions, which he said are aimed at improving Sailors' quality of life between deployments.

"On the non-deployed

side, we continue to work hard at unburdening our Sailors. We are making progress, but there's much more to do," Johnson said.

The CNO then outlined his two top concerns for the committee members.

"The number one short-term priority is still our people. We must continue to do everything we can to convey to them in word and deed that our country truly depends on them for its security and that we treasure their service and sacrifice," he said.

Toward that end, we must now take a hard look at health care initiatives for active duty

Sailors and retirees, according to Johnson.

"We must sharpen our focus and we are this year, on health care, to include taking care of our retirees, specifically our over-65 retirees to whom we owe so much," Johnson said.

The CNO told the senators that, after people, his top concern is maintaining the size and quality of the fleet.

"The number one long-term priority is building ships and aircraft in sufficient numbers to ensure our operational primacy throughout this century," Johnson said.

# McFaul Sailor is 100,000th to get SMART Transcript

By JO1(AW) Dean Persons, CNET Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — While underway on board USS *McFaul* (DDG 74) on Feb. 22, GSE2 Christopher Randall Louk became the 100,000th Sailor to request and receive his SMART (Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript).

Louk accessed the Navy College Program web site <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil> to get a copy of his SMART on-line. The SMART is a feature of the new Navy College Program. It documents recommended college credit for a Sailor's military training and occupational experience.

Louk went to the Navy College Program web site and found out he had a total of 63 recommended college credits from the Navy schools he attended. Later that day the ship received an e-mail informing them that he was the 100,000th requestor.

The following procedures

should be followed to obtain an individual unofficial SMART via the Navy College Program web site:

— Go to the Navy College Program Web site at <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil>;

— Click on "here" to get your SMART;

— Click on "Sign into SMART as an individual."

You will now be on the page to enter your SSN and password. If you have never requested a SMART, enter SSN only. The system will bring up another screen for first time users to enter additional personal information.

You will need your pay entry base date, located on your leave and earning statement (LES), to access your transcript.

While SMART is now available on-line, Sailors and Marines may still request copies from the Navy College Center by calling (877) 253-7122/DSN 922-1828, via e-mail

at [ncc@smtp.cnet.navy.mil](mailto:ncc@smtp.cnet.navy.mil) or by visiting their local Navy College Office.

Your official SMART transcript can be sent directly

to an academic institution of your choice and must be requested from the Navy College Center or by visiting your local Navy College Office.



**GSE3 Christopher R. Louk, stationed onboard USS *McFaul* currently deployed in the Mediterranean Sea, researches how much college credit he has earned from his naval training through the SMART system as his commanding officer CDR Bruce H. Curry and division officer CWO2 (SW) Greg Galyo look on.**  
U.S. Navy Photo

## Submarine Centennial History: March 17, 1959

USS *Skate* (SSN 578), the Navy's first production nuclear submarine, surfaced through a thin layer of Arctic ice at the North Pole. *Skate* was the first submarine to surface at the top of the world. The sub ended up surfacing 10 times through the ice during this mission.

*Skate* was the third nuclear submarine with three others in its class: USS *Swordfish* (SSN 579), USS *Sargo* (SSN 583) and USS *Seadragon* (SSN 584).

For more information on the Submarine Centennial, go to <http://www.navy.mil> and click on "Submarine Centennial".

## In naval history: Mar. 20. 1922

A former collier (coal carrier) was recommissioned after conversion to a "flat-top." USS *Langley* (CV-1), became the Navy's first aircraft carrier.

## On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

\* The Navy bids a final farewell to the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON Delbert Black, during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery;

\* The hardworking Sailors of Construction Battalion 2 build a temporary pier to help move supplies and equipment;

\* Meet some of the Sailors who teach firefighting skills to officers at the Newport Naval Station Firefighting School in Newport, Rhode Island;

\* Find out why USS *Bataan* Sailors love being in the Navy.

Compiled on tape #2000-12, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

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